

STATINTL

## U.S. Denies N. Y. Man Is China Spy

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13 (AP).—

The State Department today rejected Chinese Communist charges that Hugh Francis Redmond, of New York, is a spy and said he is a "legitimate" business man.

China announced Sunday that Mr. Redmond, who has been living in China since 1947, had been sentenced to life imprisonment in Shanghai. He was employed by Henningsen & Co., Ltd., with offices in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

State Department spokesman Lincoln White said Mr. Redmond is an American business man "engaged in legitimate business operations." Asked whether he were denying the spy charge, he told reporters "certainly by implication I am." Other officials described the spy charges as "fantastic" and "spurious."

Some officials thought the Communists may have decided to issue the announcement as evidence of a continued tough policy toward Americans after a prior announcement that they are ready to free three other United States citizens.

State Department officials declined to say what action might be taken to get Mr. Redmond out of prison. This country, which does not maintain diplomatic relations with Red China, normally works through the British on such matters.

Officials noted that in some past cases, the Reds have modified sentences against Americans and eventually turned them free.

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